Bridget Fleming
Suffolk County Legislator
Second District

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For Immediate Release   **May 2, 2016**
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MEDIA ALERT: TICK-BORNE ILLNESS PRESENTATION AT THE HEALTH
COMMITTEE MEETING
WHEN: THURSDAY, MAY 5th AT 2:00 PM
WHERE: MAXINE S. POSTAL AUDITORIUM, EVANS K. GRIFFING BUILDING,
300 CENTER DRIVE, RIVERHEAD

Legislator Fleming Arranges Tick-Borne Illness Presentation for the First East End Appearance of the Health Committee

Second District Legislator arranges tick-borne illness presentation during first ever Riverside committee week; advocates research funding in the Capital Budget

CAPTION: The Suffolk County Legislature at the first 2016 General Meeting held in the Riverside Legislative Auditorium.

Recognizing the public health crisis imposed by tick-borne illness, Legislator Fleming has made finding relief a top priority. The Second District Legislator is working to address the issue from a few angles, including awareness and funding.

During the first ever Riverside cycle of committee meetings held by the Suffolk County Legislature, Legislator Fleming has arranged for a representative of Southampton Hospital, who specializes in infectious diseases, to give a presentation on tick-borne illness before the Health Committee on May 5th at 2:00 PM.

In addition to spreading awareness, Legislator Fleming advocated for tick-borne illness research funding in the Capital Budget. A new capital project (CP 4091) in the 2017-2019 Proposed Capital Budget, which was released in the second week of April, allocates $100,000 to fund equipment for a tick pathogen testing program. "Our tick problem cannot be adequately addressed using research conducted outside of Suffolk County. In order to implement effective prevention methods, we need to understand what species are present in a given region of the County, what hosts they appear on, and the illnesses they are carrying" stated Legislator Fleming.